

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 01198 142103Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1198

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, JM, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SEAGA VISIT

REF: A. KINGSTON 1011, B. STATE 051402

1. WE CAN APPRECIATE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY SEAGA COULD AROUSE SOME FEELINGS OF DIFFIDENCE AS WE ENTER INTO NEW EFFORTS WITH JAMAICA TO INCREASE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION. NEVERTHELESS, JAMAICA IS STILL A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN WHICH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION--THE HEAD OF A SECOND PARTY-- PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE, WHICH ROLE IS ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO HIM BY THE CONSTITUTION. IT WOULD BOTH DEROGATE FROM THAT CONSTITUTION AND RAISE A QUESTION REGARDING OUR ACCEPTANCE OF JAMAICA'S TWO PARTY SYSTEM WERE WE TO DECLINE TO SEE SEAGA.

2. WE AGREE THAT MEETING MIGHT BETTER BE LATER RATHER THAN EARLIER, AND SUGGEST THAT A GOOD TIME COULD COME WHEN THE "TECHNICAL COMMITTEES" HAVE AT LEAST FINISHED THE FIRST PHASE OF THEIR WORK HERE.

3. WE DO NOT AGREE THAT SEAGA, AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, WOULD SEE NO ONE HIGHER THAN THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR. RATHER, WE THINK THAT HE SHOULD SEE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS. AT THAT
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PAGE 02 KINGST 01198 142103Z

LEVEL, SEAGA WILL RECOGNIZE THAT HE IS RECEIVING BOTH THE APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF ATTENTION WHILE/ AT THE SAME TIME, DISCUSSING JAMAICA'S PROBLEMS WITH SOMEONE POSSESSING AN ADEQUATE MEASURE OF DETAILED INFORMATION.

4. AS TO SEAGA'S DESIRE TO TOUCH ON HIS "EIGHT-

POINT PROGRAM", WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO THIN
HE POSSESSES SUFFICIENT SAVVY TO KNOW THAT NO
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COULD BE MADE CONTINGENT ON
ANYTHING AS CONCRETE AS HIS REFORM PROPOSALS.
HOWEVER, WE SUPPOSE HE HAS BEEN LISTENING TO RECENT
STATEMENTS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HAS CONCLUDED
THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME RECEPTIVITY TO A DISCUSSION
WHICH TOUCHES ON HIS CONCERN WITH THE USE OF POLICE
FOR POLITICAL ENDS AND THE MANIPULATION OF ELECTORAL
MACHINERY. AND AFTER ALL, SEAGA DOES SPEAK FOR
A PARTY WHICH CAPTURED NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULAR
VOTE IN THE LAST GENERAL ELECTIONS.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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